

Verizon has filed a petition at the FCC, asking the FCC to stop regulating broadband service.

If this petition is granted, large phone companies such as Verizon would no longer be subject to regulatory review of their broadband pricing to independent ISPs. As a result, independent ISPs would have to individually negotiate pricing and the ability to interconnect, which would undoubtedly raise the prices for independent ISPs, and the prices for consumers too. Verizon already makes it difficult for ISPs to provide DSL service to its customers. But the more serious threat is that it is even possible that the phone companies could, in the long run, refuse to provide the necessary connections for DSL service, and no ISP would be able to sell DSL at all. We think the FCC must continue to regulate the provision of DSL service in order to ensure a fair market and the most protection for consumers.